

REMARKS/ARGUMENT**Regarding the Claims in General:**

Claims 1-18 remain pending. Claims 1 and 14 have been amended to better highlight distinguishing features of the invention, and (as to claim 14), to improve the form thereof.

These claims now recite more explicitly what was already at least implicit in the claims as previously presented, and have therefore not been narrowed for statutory purposes related to patentability.

Regarding The Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 10-13, and the indication that claims 9, 17, and 18 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form incorporating the limitations of their respective parent claims. Because claim 9 is dependent on claim 1, and claims 17 and 18 are dependent on claim 14, both of which are believed to be allowable as amended, claims 9, 17, and 18 have been retained in dependent form pending the Examiner's further consideration.

Regarding the Prior Art Rejections:

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-8 and 14-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Fujisawa Published U. S. Application 2005/0189567 A1 (Fujisawa). Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested in view of the amendments herein.

Claim 1 as amended, directed to a method of bonding wire between first and second bonding points with a bonding tool, recites the steps of:

forming a first bond at the first bonding point with the bonding tool;

moving the bonding tool away from the first bond by a first distance;

moving the bonding tool towards the first bonding point and coupling the wire to the first bond *without bonding the wire thereto . . .*
(emphasis added)

This is entirely different from Fujisawa, in which the portion of the wire 3c which is crushed back onto the initial ball bond 30 is also bonded a second time at that point. There is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion in Fujisawa for a simple mechanical coupling. Claim 1 is accordingly not anticipated by Fujisawa, and should be allowed, along with rejected dependent claims 2-8.

Claim 14 is also not anticipated by Fujisawa. In rejecting this claim, the Examiner appears to have overlooked the requirement that the curved portion twists at least part way around the ball-bonded base. The wire in Fujisawa is entirely *on top of* the base portion, as is evident from all of the drawings in the document.

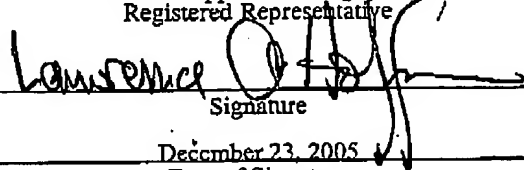
Nevertheless, to better highlight this feature of the invention, claim 14 has been amended to recite:

a curved portion integrated with and extending in an arc around at least a part of the base portion which twists in a direction substantially around an axis that is substantially normal to a bonding surface of the wire bond. . .

There is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion of this in Fujisawa. Claim 14, and dependent claims 15-16 should accordingly also be allowed.

In view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully solicited.

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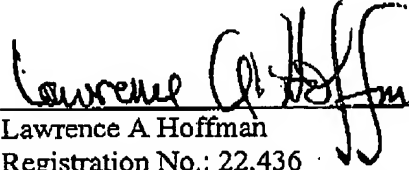
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Respectfully submitted,



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